

Message Text

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21

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, PO

SUBJECT: POLISH EDITORIAL BLASTS WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS ON PORTUGAL

REF: MOSCOW 11220

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1. ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON AUGUST 11 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ATTACKING WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FOR THEIR DECISION AT THE RECENT CONCLAVE IN STOCKHOLM TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO AID PORTUGAL. THE EDITORIAL, NOTING THAT THE "GOOD UNCLES" AT STOCKHOLM SET AS THEIR OFFICIAL GOAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PARTY OF SOARES IN ITS EFFORT TO DEVELOP "PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY" AND AVERT A DANGEROUS SHIFT TO THE LEFT, ASSERTED THAT THE MOVE IS REALLY AIMED AT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE STRIVING TO ACHIEVE RADICAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD WEAKEN PORTUGAL'S FUTURE ROLE IN WESTERN IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY GROUPINGS. THE EDITORIAL RIDICULED THE WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS' EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR INTERNAL CONDITIONS IN PORTUGAL AND THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH SOARES, WHO IT ALLEGED "SEES A GREATER THREAT IN COMMUNISM THAN IN THE PORTUGUESE REACTION." CONCLUDING, THE EDITORIAL ACCUSED THE EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS OF "BLACKMAIL" BY THEIR CONDITIONING OF MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL ON THE DIRECTION OF THE CHANGES EMERGING THERE, AND IT OBSERVED THAT THE BEST EXPRESSION OF DEMOCRACY WOULD BE TO LEAVE THE FATE OF PORTUGAL IN THE HANDS OF THE PORTUGUESE.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE STRONGEST ATTACK WE HAVE SEEN HERE ON WEST EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD PORTUGAL AND ON THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS THEMSELVES. ALTHOUGH, UNLIKE THE PRAVDA ARTICLE REPORTED IN REFTEL, THE ZYCIE EDITORIAL MAKES NO LINK WITH CSCE, IT NEVERTHELESS TAKES THE SAME LINE THAT WEST EUROPEAN POLICIES TOWARD PORTUGAL, IN THIS CASE THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, REPRESENT INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. THE ZYCIE EDITORIAL ALSO POINTS UP IMPLICITLY THE DIFFICULTIES THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION MAY POSE FOR THE IDEA OF PROMOTING CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS, AN IDEAN WHICH HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY DISCUSSED HERE IN ANTICIPATION OF A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE.

DAVIES

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